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Document Number:

38) IV-E-4

Docket Number:

A-90-16

A-90-16

IV-E-4



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Conference Call with NIEHS and PHS on MMT

FROM: James W. Caldwell, Acting Chief
Field Operations and Compliance Policy Branch

THROUGH: Mary T. Smith, Director /S/ 8-3-90
Field Operations and Support Division

TO: Docket No. A-90-16

James W. Caldwell
August 1, 1990

On July 18, 1990, Mary Smith, John Holley, John Hannon, and I conducted a conference call with Dr. Kate Mahaffey of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Dr. Victor Fung of the Public Health Service. The issue was Ethyl's request to use the manganese-base additive MMT in unleaded gasoline. Dr. Mahaffey raised concerns about the neurotoxicity of manganese combustion products and the fact that there is a high retention of manganese in infants and young children. She commented that there had been a study linking learning disabilities with manganese enriched infant formula. However, she also noted that manganese is required in the diet at 6 to 9 milligrams per day. It was also commented that manganese is much more toxic via inhalation than ingestion. She also questioned Ethyl's data showing only about half of a percent of the manganese being emitted (the rest remaining in the engine, catalyst, and exhaust system), noting that there is a 1988 California Paper linking a build-up of manganese in the environment as a result of the use of MMT in leaded gasoline. We encouraged Dr. Mahaffey and Dr. Fung to submit comments to the docket.